
 XXVIII. EXTRACTS from the MINUTE BOOK of the Linnean Society.

July 2, 1794. **T**HE PRESIDENT communicated an account of *Merops Apiafter*, the Bee-eater, having been shot (for the first time in Great Britain) near Mattishall in the county of Norfolk, by the Rev. Mr. George Smith. The identical specimen was exhibited, by permission of Mr. Thomas Talbot of Wymondham. A flight of about twenty was seen in June, and the same flight probably (much diminished in numbers) was observed passing over the same spot in October following.

Dec. 2. A specimen of *Tamarix gallica*, gathered in a wild state on St. Michael's Mount, Cornwall, by W. G. Maton, Esq. F.L.S. was presented to the Society.

June 2, 1795. Specimens of several rare native plants of Scotland, from Professor James Beattie, junior, of the Marschal College, Aberdeen, were presented by the President, and among them *Linnaea borealis*, discovered by that gentleman, for the first time in Britain, in an old fir wood at Mearns near Aberdeen.

May 3, 1796. Mr. Fairbairn presented a living specimen of a *Ruscus*, which, though long cultivated in Chelsea garden, has been hitherto overlooked by botanists as a variety of the *aculeatus*. Being referred to the President for examination, it was returned with the following name and character :

RUSCUS

Ruscus laxus.

Foliis ellipticis utrinque acutis mucronato-pungentibus supra floriferis nudis, ramis laxis.

The specific character of the common *Ruscus aculeatus* must be altered to

Foliis ovatis mucronato-pungentibus supra floriferis nudis, ramis strictis.

Jan. 3, The following extract of a letter from the Earl of Altamont to A. B. Lambert, Esq. V.P.L.S. was read to the Society.

“ There were formerly in Ireland two kinds of wolf-dogs, “ the greyhound and the mastiff. Till within these two “ years I was possessed of both kinds, perfectly distinct and “ easily known from each other. The heads were not so “ sharp in the latter as in the former, but there seemed a “ great similarity of temper and disposition, both being “ harmless and indolent. The painting in your possession “ is of the mastiff wolf-dog. [See tab. 3, of the present “ volume.]

“ I have at present five wolf-dogs remaining, three males “ and two females; in these the two sorts appear to be “ mixed. The dam was of the mastiff, the sire, if I am not “ mistaken, was of the greyhound kind. The sire and dam “ had not dwindled in size from any that I remember here. “ Those which now remain are too young to judge of. “ We have an old man here, named Bryan Scabil, now in “ his 119th year, whose memory seems accurate, and all “ his faculties complete. He perfectly remembers the hunt- “ ing of wolves in Ireland, as a common matter of sport, “ and

“ and informs me that the usage was to collect all the dogs
“ of every sort in the neighbourhood, and to borrow wolf-
“ dogs from the principal gentlemen, who alone had them,
“ and who usually assisted in the chase. A tenth part of
“ the dogs used were not wolf-dogs, which never were in
“ any number in the hands of the common people. I con-
“ ceive also that these dogs having *no nose*, other kinds were
“ necessary to find the game and follow the scent of it.
“ Scahil described wolves with such perfect accuracy, I
“ have no doubt of his being well acquainted with the
“ animal.”

At the same time Mr. Lambert presented to the Society specimens of the new kind of Bark from Tecamez in South America (with a whole tree of the same), described by him in his Account of the Genus *Cinchona*, lately published.

April 4, Mr. Lambert exhibited a drawing of the *Ardea comata*,
1797. var. β , of Latham, shot at Boyton in Wiltshire, near a river, by Edmund Lambert, Esq. in the year 1775, supposed to be the only one of the kind ever found in England.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.